RELIGIOUS STUDIES, B.A.

Religious studies is an academic discipline that looks at religious phenomena worldwide from a variety of angles in order to understand the many roles that religion plays in human life. To this end, students of religion learn to use a variety of theoretical analyses and methods. These include historical methods to understand how religions develop in time; critical literary methods to understand religious ideas; aesthetic methods to understand religious art and material culture; social-scientific methods to understand the relationship between religion, society and culture. Religious studies can also engage a variety of professional disciplines in analysis of how religion functions in economic, educational or political contexts, healthcare and scientific research, to name some examples.

Some ways of studying religion emphasize understanding religions on their own terms, other ways use comparative methods to discern differences and similarities between religions. Students of religion also study ways that people use religious resources to make meaning outside the boundaries of religious institutions and identities. Above all, the field of religious studies requires a willingness to explore different ways of interpreting human life and diligent effort to develop understanding of how religious ideas, symbols, rituals and spaces serve as resources for people in a variety of contexts as they make sense of and live out their lives in the world. Thus, religious studies provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multi-dimensional world.

COURSES

Because religious studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing upon many departments, some courses may have prerequisites in their home departments that must be fulfilled even though the prerequisites themselves have no bearing on progress within the religious studies major. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all the prerequisites to enter a course before they enroll in it. The current list of courses can be found in the Religious Studies course list page (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig_st) in the Guide.

HOW TO GET IN

Students who wish to declare their intention to major or earn a certificate in religious studies must meet with the undergraduate advisor during regular office hours or by making an appointment. Students are encouraged to do this early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning, or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

Dr. Corrie Norman is the undergraduate advisor and Honors in the Major advisor. Contact her by email at cenorinan@wisc.edu.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements Quantitative Reasoning a (QR A) and Quantitative Reasoning b (QR B) coursework. Please note that some majors may require students to complete additional math coursework beyond the B.A. mathematics requirement.

Foreign Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include one 3+ credit course in the biological sciences; must include one 3+ credit course in the physical sciences
**Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work**

60 intermediate or advanced credits

**Major**

Declare and complete at least one (1) major

**Total Credits**

120 credits

**UW-Madison Experience**

30 credits in residence, overall

30 credits in residence after the 90th credit

**Minimum GPAs**

2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

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**NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR**

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above. Please note that the following special degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to non–L&S degree-seeking candidates:

- Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of Science–Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics)
- Journalism (Bachelor of Arts–Journalism; Bachelor of Science–Journalism)
- Music (Bachelor of Music)
- Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

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**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

30 credits in Religious Studies course work, to include:

**GATEWAY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 101</td>
<td>Religion in Global Perspective</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 102</td>
<td>Exploring Religion in Sickness and Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 103</td>
<td>Exploring Religion and Sexuality</td>
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Total Credits: 6

**MIDDLE SEQUENCE**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 300</td>
<td>America and Religions</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/GEN&amp;WS 305</td>
<td>Women, Gender and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/E ASIAN/HISTORY/LCA 308</td>
<td>Introduction to Buddhism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 309</td>
<td>The Crusades: Christianity and Islam</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 311</td>
<td>Sects and Cults</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 312</td>
<td>The Medieval Church</td>
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**Code** | **Title** | **Credits** |
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 318</td>
<td>Medieval Social and Intellectual History, 1200-1450</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/Sievic 325</td>
<td>Eastern Christianity/Russian Orthodoxy in a Global Context</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 327</td>
<td>Christianity and the Almighty Dollar</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/JEWISH/LITTRANS 328</td>
<td>Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HIST SCI/MED HIST 331</td>
<td>Science, Medicine and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/HEBR-BIB/JEWISH/LITTRANS 332</td>
<td>Prophets of the Bible</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 333</td>
<td>Early Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY 334</td>
<td>The Reformation</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/JEWISH 335</td>
<td>King David in History and Tradition</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/FOLKLORE/LITTRANS/MEDIEVAL 342</td>
<td>In Translation: Mythology of Scandinavia</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ANTHRO 343</td>
<td>Anthropology of Religion</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/JEWISH 346</td>
<td>Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/E ASIAN 350</td>
<td>Introduction to Taoism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/FOLKLORE/LITTRANS/MEDIEVAL 352</td>
<td>Shamanism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/LCA 355</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/FOLKLORE 359</td>
<td>Myth</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ENGL/HISTORY 360</td>
<td>The Anglo-Saxons</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 361</td>
<td>Early Christian Literature: Pauline Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/E ASIAN 363</td>
<td>Introduction to Confucianism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/JEWISH/MEDIEVAL 368</td>
<td>The Bible in the Middle Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/AFRICAN/LCA 370</td>
<td>Islam: Religion and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/ART HIST 373</td>
<td>Great Cities of Islam</td>
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The Rhetoric of Religion
Jewish Cultural History (in English)
Islam in Iran
Topics in Religious Studies - Humanities
Topics in Religious Studies - Social Studies
Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies
African American Religions
The Amish
A Survey of Tibetan Buddhism
Religion and Politics
Milton
Western Christianity from Augustine to Darwin
Buddhism and Society in Southeast Asian History
Islamic History From the Origin of Islam to the Ottoman Empire
Francis of Assisi: Literature and the Arts
Introduction to Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)
Classical Rabbinic Texts
The History of Yoga
Gods and Goddesses of South Asia
Buddhist Thought
Religious Thought in Modern Europe
Christian Literature: The Gospels
Art and Religious Practice in Medieval Japan
Advanced Topics in Religious Studies
Philosophy of Religion
Special Topics in Philosophy of Religion
The Enlightenment and Its Critics
Religion and Public Education
Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean
Intellectual and Religious History of European Jewry, 1648-1939
Political Islam
Proseminar: Studies in Religions of Asia
Meditation in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism
Proseminar in Buddhist Thought
The Anthropology of Shamanism and Occult Experience
2 courses:
Religion in Critical Perspective
Senior Capstone Research and Colloquium
The History of Yoga
Gods and Goddesses of South Asia
Buddhist Thought
Religious Thought in Modern Europe
Christian Literature: The Gospels
Art and Religious Practice in Medieval Japan
Advanced Topics in Religious Studies
Philosophy of Religion
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Political Islam
Proseminar: Studies in Religions of Asia
Meditation in Indian Buddhism and Hinduism
Proseminar in Buddhist Thought
The Anthropology of Shamanism and Occult Experience
2 courses:
Religion in Critical Perspective
Senior Capstone Research and Colloquium
2.000 GPA in all RELIG ST and major courses
2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits for the major, taken in residence
15 credits in RELIG ST or the major, taken on campus
Courses counting as upper level in the major include:

HONORS IN THE MAJOR
Students may declare Honors in the Religious Studies Major in consultation with the Religious Studies undergraduate advisor.
HONORS IN THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR: REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in Religious Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and these additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA in all RELIG ST and major courses
- 19 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:
  - RELIG 600 Religion in Critical Perspective
  - RELIG ST 601 Senior Capstone Research and Colloquium
  - RELIG ST 681 and RELIG ST 682 for at least 6 credits.
  - 6 credits of intermediate- or advanced-level RELIG ST and major courses

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

- **Residency**: Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

- **Quality of Work**: Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis.

2. Proficiency in accessing, appraising, and utilizing a variety of resources and methods for research across disciplinary lines.

3. Proficiency in categorizing, analyzing and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.

4. Global and local religious literacy; identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious worldviews and communities in Wisconsin, the United States and globally.

5. Ability to conduct and present sustained research on primary sources using methodologies/analysis of religious studies culminating in the senior capstone project.

ADVISORS AND CAREERS

ADVISING

Dr. Corrie Norman is the undergraduate advisor and Honors in the Major advisor. Contact her by email at cenorman@wisc.edu to meet with her. Students are encouraged to meet with Dr. Norman early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

CAREERS

Religious studies engages a variety of professional disciplines and provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally in a complex, multi-dimensional world.

Religious studies sponsors workshops and other career exploration vehicles, often in collaboration with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science, to aid students in articulating the value of religious studies for their career preparation. Student-developed capstone projects in religious studies often make specific connections to experiential learning and career preparation in a range of fields. Talk with Dr. Norman about possibilities for combining internships and other forms of preprofessional training with the major and certificate.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers).

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci)

PEOPLE

PROFESSORS

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**
Beneker, Cerulli, Hutton, Livanos, Ridgely, Shelef, Shoemaker, Thal, Todorovic

**ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**
Al-Mohammad, Chamedes, Hollander, Mandell, Pruitt

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY ASSOCIATE**
Brown

**FACULTY ASSOCIATES**
Mellor, Norman, Rosenhagen

**ASSOCIATE FACULTY ASSOCIATE**
Whelan

**LECTURER**
Carlsson

**FACULTY DIVERSITY LIAISON**
Program Director Rosenblum